

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01959 290314Z

62

ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 L-03 MMO-01 SS-15 INR-07 /037 W

----- 052916

P R 281427Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9847

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 1959

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NU

SUBJECT: IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON MAAGS  
AND SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS

REF: STATE 097277

1. AS THE DEPARTMENT KNOWS, I CONSIDER THE MILGP IS MAKING AN  
EXTREMELY IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO U.S. POLICY OF MAINTAINING  
CLOSE, COOPERATIVE RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA. THE MILGP PRESENCE  
PROVIDES THE UNITED STATES WITH A MAJOR INSTRUMENT OF INFLUENCE  
WITH THE NATIONAL GUARD, A KEY POWER FACTOR IN NICARAGUA, AND  
WITH WEST POINT EDUCATED PRESIDENT SOMOZA. AT THE SAME TIME,  
THE MILGP IS HIGHLY VALUED BY THE GON, AND ESPECIALLY BY THE  
PRESIDENT, FOR THE TRAINING, ADVISORY AND OTHER SERVICES THAT  
NICARAGUA IS INCAPABLE OF PROVIDING FOR ITSELF. THE MILGP PRESENCE  
IS TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE OFTEN REPEATED U.S. COMMITMENT TO  
HEMISPHERIC COLLECTIVE SECURITY, AND MORE PARTICULARLY INTEREST  
IN NICARAGUAN SECURITY.

2. HOWEVER, I AM CONVINCED THAT THE PRESENT SECURITY ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM FOR NICARAGUA CAN BE MANAGED EFFECTIVELY WITH SMALLER,  
CORE STAFF OF 8-10 PERSONNEL. ANY REDUCTION SUBSTANTIALLY BELOW  
THAT NUMBER INEVITABLY WILL CURTAIL TECHNICAL EFFECTIVENESS AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01959 290314Z

POLITICAL INFLUENCE OF U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE. THERE IS, OF

COURSE, NO REASON WHY THE MILGP FORMAT CANNOT BE CHANGED IF SOME OTHER STRUCTURE CAN BE DEvised TO CARRY OUT ESSENTIALLY THE SAME FUNCTIONS REQUIRED BY THE PRESENT NICARAGUAN PROGRAM. THE PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN MILITARY PERSONNEL TO THE CHIEF OF A UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC MISSION TO PERFORM SECURITY ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS IN LIEU OF A SEPARATE MILGP WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AS LONG AS AN INFLEXIBLE MAXIMUM THREE-MAN LIMIT WAS NOT INSISTED UPON.

3. ASSUMING THAT NICARAGUA IS NOT SELECTED FOR MILGP ELIMINATION, A GRADUAL PHASE DOWN IN MILGP SIZE TO HARD CORE OF 8-10 MEN COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT UNDUE DIFFICULTY OR PREJUDICE TO PROGRAM OVER NEXT SEVERAL YEARS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, MILGP IN NICARAGUA IS ELIMINATED, ITS FUNCTIONS COULD BE ADEQUATELY PERFORMED BY 8-10 MILITARY PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO CHIEF OF MISSION. HOWEVER, A THREE-MAN MILITARY SECTION IN THE EMBASSY COULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, PEERFORM THE PRESENT MILGP FUNCTIONS.

4. THE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF TIME REQUIRED BY MILITARY SALES IS NO LESS THAN THAT ENTAILED BY THE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT IT REPLACES. THE SMALL NICARAGUAN NATIONAL GUARD CANNOT BE REASONABLY EXPECTED TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO INTERFACE DIRECTLY ON THE EXTREMELY COMPLICATED U.S. TRAINING AND LOGISTIC SYSTEMS. ALSO, UNDER THE PRESENT MILGP AGREEMENTS THE GON PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL COST OFFSETS. TERMINATION OF THE MILGP WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY LEAD TO ABROGATION OF THE AGREEMENTS WITH A CONSEQUENT NET LOSS TO ANY PROPOSED SUCCESSOR MILITARY SECTION IN THE EMBASSY.

5. NOT ONLY WOULD IT BE IMPOSSIBLE FOR A THREE-MAN EMBASSY MILITARY SECTION TO DO THE JOB, BUT ANY SUDDEN, DRASTIC CUT-BACK IN OUR MILITARY PRESENCE HERE WOULD CONTRIBUTE STRONGLY TO THE EROSION OF US INFLUENCE, PARTICULARLY IN THE PRESENT CONTEXT OF A GROWING PERCEPTION OF US WITHDRAWAL AND DECLINE AND HEIGHTENED FEARS OF CUBAN INTERVENTION AFTER THE ANGOLA ADVENTURE.

6. IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNWISE TO ME FOR CONGRESS TO LEGISLATE AN ARBITRARY, RIGID THREE-MAN LIMIT TO THE EMBASSY MILITARY SECTION, WHICH WOULD DEPREIVE US OF THE NECESSARY FLEXIBILITY TO VARY NUMBERS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL IN LINE WITH CHANGING PROGRAM FUNCTIONS AND HOST COUNTRY REQUIREMENTS. IF CONGRESS IS DE-CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MANAGU 01959 290314Z

TERMINED TO TERMINATE MILGPS WORLDWIDE, THEN THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD AGREE STRONGLY FOR RETAINING FLEXIBILITY IN LEGISLATION TO PERMIT SHIFT FROM MILGP TO EMBASSY MILITARY SECTION WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO PRESENT PROGRAMS.

7. I BELIEVE THAT OUR OVERALL INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY MAINTAINING A REDUCED MILGP BEYOND 1977, AND I URGE THAT NICARAGUA BE INCLUDED IN LIST OF RETAINED MILGP COUNTRIES UNDER CONGRESSIONAL

AUTHORIZATION.  
THEBERGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY ASSISTANCE, LEGISLATIVE BILLS, MILITARY ADVISERS, PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 APR 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** blochd0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976MANAGU01959  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760162-0286  
**From:** MANAGUA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760411/aaaaajes.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION PM  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** STADIS  
**Reference:** 76 STATE 97277  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** blochd0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 15 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <15 JUL 2004 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <25 OCT 2004 by blochd0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** IMPACT OF NEW SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION ON MAAGS AND SIMILAR ADVISORY MISSIONS OVERSEAS  
**TAGS:** MASS, NU, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006